

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3863

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 BRASILIA 1207

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP PFOR BR

SUBJECT: VISIT OF SECRETARY KISSINGER: PRESS COVERAGE SO FAR

SUMMARY: PRESS TREATMENT SINCE ANNOUNCEMENT OF KISSINGER VISIT HAS SHOWN WIDESPREAD AGREEMENT THAT PRINCIPAL TOPICS OF CONVERSATION WILL BE US-BRAZILIAN DIVERGENCE ON ANGOLA AND ANTI-ZIONISM VOTE, AND TRADE QUESTIONS, BOTH GENERAL AND REGARDING BRAZIL'S DEFICIT WITH US. PROBLEM OF DEFICIT RECEIVING SAME EMPHASIS FROM O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO. THERE IS ALSO GENERAL EXPECTATION THAT BROADER NORTH-SOUTH AND EAST-WEST SUBJECTS WILL ALSO BE COVERED, AS THERE IS CONSENSUS THAT NO CONCRETE RESULTS ARE TO BE EXPECTED. ALSO MENTIONED WERE HUMAN RIGHTS AS AGENDA ITEM, CONGRESSIONAL CONSTRAINTS ON FREEDOM OF SECRETARY'S ACTION, AND--IN ONE PAPER--GROWING CUBAN PRESENCE IN GUYANA. CITING SOURCES CLOSE TO FOREIGN MINISTER, O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO RAN DETAILED ACCOUNT OF ANTICIPATED BRAZILIAN RESPONSE TO KISSINGER PRESENTATION ON ANGOLA. END SUMMARY.

1. FOLLOWING FEBRUARY 6 ANNOUNCEMENT OF SECY KISSINGER VISIT, PRESTIGIOUS O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO HAS GIVEN EVENT MOST COVERAGE BY FAR OF BRAZILIAN PAPERS. STRAIGHT NEWS STORY FOLLOWING DAY EXPECTED "POLITICAL ASPECTS OF BRAZIL-US RELATIONS" WOULD BE FOCUS OF TALKS HERE, IN VIEW OF DIVERGENCES ON ANGOLA AND ANTI-ZIONISM VOTE. BILATERAL UNCLASSIFIED

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TRADE, US TRADE ACT AND GSP, AND HUMAN RIGHTS WERE ALSO

IDENTIFIED AS PROSPECTIVE TOPICS, WITH INTEREST IN LAST BEING ATTRIBUTED TO DELEGATION ACCOMPANYING HIM. SAME ISSUE CARRIED COLUMN BY PAPER'S WELL-CONNECTED BRASILIA BUREAU CHIEF DECLARING GROWING CUBAN PRESENCE IN GUYANA WILL BE DISCUSSED AND ADDING IT NO SECRET THAT WORRY MOUNTING IN BRAZIL AND US OVER CUBAN USE OF GUYANESE TERRITORY.

2. ESTADO'S SUNDAY EDITION DEVOTED LEAD EDITORIAL AND FOUR INTERPRETIVE PIECES TO VISIT. EDITORIAL NOTED THAT MANY TOPICS DESERVED DISCUSSION, BUT NONE MORE THAN CUBAN INTERVENTION IN ANGOLA, INTERVENTION THAT SEEMS FINALLY TO HAVE CONVINCED STATE DEPT THAT CASTRO REGIME NOT SUSCEPTIBLE TO REHABILITATION AS RESPONSIBLE MEMBER OF CONCERT OF NATIONS. CALLING CUBAN ARMY SOVIET FOREIGN LEGION AND DECLARING THAT "THE COUNTRIES OF LATIN AMERICA FEEL ITS COVERT INFLUENCE BEHIND ALL THE TERRORIST GROUPS THAT CONTINUE ACTING IN THEM AND IN THE US ITSELF...", EDITORIAL CONCLUDED WITH SUGGESTIONS THAT APPARENT US READINESS TO REVIEW ITS CUBA POLICY MIGHT FAIRLY FIND BRAZIL, AS RESOLUTELY ANTI-CUBAN, PREPARED TO HELP, PERHAPS THROUGH OAS, FIND MEANS OF IMPOSING PRINCIPLE OF NON-INTERVENTION ON CASTRO.

3. IN REPORT FROM WASHINGTON, ESTADO CORRESPONDENT SERGIO MOTTA MELLO SUMMED UP, "AN AGENDA WITH MANY TOPICS, FROM THE ANGOLA QUESTION TO TRADE AND ENERGY--BUT LITTLE EXPECTATION OF CONCRETE RESULTS." STORY QUOTED (US) OFFICIAL THAT PRINCIPAL EFFORT OF TRIP WILL BE TO DENY CHARGES US TRYING TO BLOCK BRAZILIAN DEVELOPMENT, REVIEWED PROBLEMS OF TRADE ACT, ABANDONMENT OF "NEW DIALOGUE" SLOGAN, AND "INTERFERENCE" OF US CONGRESS IN TRADE, AND MENTIONED BRAZILIAN (AND LA) ASPIRATIONS FOR WIDER WORLD ROLE, ECONOMIC PROBLEMS, AND ANGOLA AS LIKELY DISCUSSION TOPICS. STORY ALSO NOTED THEME (FROM RECENT SPEECH OF AMB CRIMMINS) OF RESPONSIBILITIES FACING BRAZIL AS EMERGING POWER. REGARDING ANGOLA, STORY SAID LA RESPONSE WAS NOT AIMED FOR BUT WOULD BE WELCOME, AND ADDED POSSIBILITY NOT EXCLUDED THAT BRAZIL AND US COULD REACH AN AGREEMENT CONDEMNING CUBAN INTERVENTION. STORY ALSO REVIEWED HUMAN PROBLEM, UNCLASSIFIED

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EXPLAINING DIFFERENCE BETWEEN APPROACHES OF US EXECUTIVE AND CONGRESS IN DEALING WITH OTHER COUNTRIES IN THIS RESPECT.

4. IN SAME EDITION, PAPER RAN STORY FROM BRASILIA WHICH INTER ALIA ANALYZED KISSINGER SAN FRANCISCO SPEECH AS ACCEPTING LOSS IN ANGOLA AND AS ASKING "WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?" CITING SOURCES CLOSE TO FOREIGN MINISTER, STORY

SAID BRAZILIAN RESPONSE TO KISSINGER PRESENTATION ON ANGOLA WILL HAVE FIVE POINTS: (A) US SHOULD UNDERSTAND IMPORTANCE FOR BRAZIL OF GOOD RELATIONS WITH LUANDA; (B) SUCH RELATIONS BASIC TO BRAZILIAN POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC PENETRATION IN AFRICA; (C) THIS ATTITUDE IMPLIES NO IDEOLOGICAL COMMITMENT WITH MPLA; (D) DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH LUANDA WOULD NOT TRANSLATE INTO BRAZILIAN RESPONSIBILITY REGARDING SOUTH ATLANTIC SECURITY; AND (E) BRAZIL DOES NOT CONSIDER SOUTH ATLANTIC SOURCE OF SPECIAL CONCERN AT THIS TIME. ANOTHER STORY FROM BRASILIA IN SAME PAPER SAID PRINCIPAL BRAZILIAN THEMES IN TALKS WILL BE "REAFFIRMATION OF THE END OF THE ERA OF AUTOMATIC ALIGNMENTS AND AN APPEAL TO THE US" TO RECOGNIZE AND ACCEPT NEW BRAZILIAN POLICY AS EUROPE ALREADY HAS, AND LOWERING OF US TRADE BARRIERS TO BRAZILIAN PRODUCTS IN ORDER TO REDUCE BRAZILIAN TRADE DEFICIT WITH US. FOURTH STORY IN SAME EDITION WAS ON TRADE "IMPASSE," AND INCLUDED SUGGESTION THAT WHILE DIALOGUE PREFERABLE, BRAZILIAN RETALIATION AGAINST US BARRIERS NOT OUT OF THE QUESTION.

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FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3864

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5. IN LEAD EDITORIAL FEB 10, ESTADO NOTED REFERENCE IN AMB CRIMMINS' SPEECH TO BRAZIL AS EMERGING POWER AND WENT ON TO CITE BRAZIL'S TRADE DEFICIT WITH US, US COUNTERVAILING DUTY ACTION AGAINST BRAZILIAN SHOES AND LEATHER HANDBAGS, REDUCTION IN US PERCENTAGE OF BRAZIL'S FOREIGN DEBT (AS SIGN OF REDUCED US CONTRIBUTION TO BRAZILIAN ECONOMY), US OPPOSITION TO THIRD WORLD PROPOSALS PRESENTED BY

BRAZILIAN FINANCE MINISTER IN JAMAICA IMF MEETING, AND SECY KISSINGER AS HEAD OF OPPOSITION TO STABILIZATION OF RAW MATERIALS PRICES. EDITORIAL CONCLUDED WITH CALL FOR ACCEPTANCE OF "CERTAIN LACK OF RECIPROCITY OF TREATMENT" ON GROUNDS BRAZIL NEEDS "PARTICULAR CONDITIONS, ESPECIALLY IN THIS DIFFICULT PHASE OF THE WORLD SITUATION." NEWS COVERAGE IN SAME EDITION REVIEWED SECY'S PRIVATE VISIT TO BRAZIL IN 1962 AND CARRIED SAME MATERIAL AS OTHER PAPERS ON PEOPLE SECY WILL MEET WITH DURING VISIT. ESTADO QUOTED "SPECIALISTS IN US AFFAIRS" AS RECOMMENDING THAT VISIT BE PLACED IN CONTEXT OF 1976 AS ELECTORAL YEAR IN US; JORNAL DO BRASIL, FOLHA DE SAO PAULO, AND JORNAL DE BRASILIA HIGHLIGHTED FACT SECY TO MEET WITH PRESIDENTIAL ADVISOR GOLBERY.

6. JORNAL DO BRASIL (FEB 8) WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT CONCLUDED, "IN THE FIRST IMPRESSION OF SOME OBSERVERS, EVEN IF ALL KISSINGER'S CONVERSATIONS IN THE COUNTRIES HE VISITS ARE CARRIED OUT ON THE LEVEL OF MERE CONSULTATION, UNCLASSIFIED

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THE EXPECTED CHANGE OF PERCEPTION IN RELATION TO LATIN AMERICA WILL HAVE BEEN AN EVOLUTION BEYOND THE ACTUAL STATE OF THINGS, ABOVE ALL IF THE NEW PERCEPTION INCORPORATES ITSELF INTO THE FUTURE IMPLEMENTATION OF WASHINGTON'S FOREIGN POLICY. WITHOUT THAT, HOWEVER, THE TRIP WILL HAVE BEEN ONLY TO PUT AN END TO THE INSISTENCE OF THE GOVERNMENTS SOUTH OF RIO GRANDE." JORNAL DE BRASILIA DETECTED NEW EMPHASIS ON BILATERAL RELATIONS TO DETRIMENT OF OAS, AND ADDED COFFEE AND MULTINATIONALS AS TOPICS OF DISCUSSION. FOLHA DE SAO PAULO (FEB 8) NEW YORK CORRESPONDENT, UNDER HEADLINE "THE KISSINGER BRAZIL WILL SEE," SAID SECRETARY IS NO LONGER THE "SUPERMAN" OF BEFORE, NOTING INTER ALIA CONGRESSIONAL RESTRICTIONS, OPPOSITION OF SOME TO DETENTE AND OF OTHERS TO RELATIONS WITH COUNTRIES LIKE CHILE, AND LOSS OF VARIOUS TITLES AND THUS OF DIRECT ACCESS TO PRESIDENT.

7. THERE WERE A COUPLE OF BRIEF COMMENTS CRITICAL OF EXPECTED LACK OF CONCRETE RESULTS, AND JORNAL DE BRASILIA ECONOMIC COMMENTATOR, REVIEWING ALLEGATIONS OF US PROTECTIONISM AND HEAVY-HANDEDNESS, CONCLUDED, "WELCOME, MR. KISSINGER (ANYWAY)." HIGH-CIRCULATION O GLOBO, ON OTHER HAND, SAID IN FEB 10 EDITORIAL THAT GROUND IS "PREPARED FOR A PRODUCTIVE VISIT," HAILED OPPORTUNITY FOR DIRECT DIALOGUE WITH SECRETARY, ALSO REVIEWED DIVERGENCE ON ANGOLA AND PROBLEM OF TRADE DEFICIT, AND CONCLUDED, "IT IS UP TO BRAZIL TO RENEW THE DEMONSTRATIONS OF ITS VOCATION AS A GREAT POWER, SPEAKING TO KISSINGER THE LANGUAGE OF MATURITY WITH LUCIDITY AND EQUILIBRIUM."

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